

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An optical amplifying and relaying system comprising:

an up and a down optical transmission line opposing each other,

amplifiers each provided on each of the optical transmission lines, and

monitoring light signal folding-back lines connected between the two optical

transmission lines and each including an optical coupler for taking out a monitoring light

signal led to the own optical transmission line and a wavelength selective reflecting means for

transmitting the monitoring light signal received from the own optical transmission line by

folding-back transmission to the opposite optical transmission line,

wherein: the optical amplifying and relaying system further comprises variable optical

attenuators each provided between each optical coupler and the associated wavelength

selective reflecting means.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Original) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 1, wherein

the optical couplers are each provided on the optical transmission line on the input side of

each optical amplifier.

Claims 4-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) An optical amplifying and relaying system comprising:

an up and a down optical transmission line opposing each other,

amplifiers each provided on each of the optical transmission lines, and monitoring light signal folding-back lines connected between the two optical transmission lines and each including an optical coupler for taking out a monitoring light signal lead to the own optical transmission line and a wavelength selective reflecting means for transmitting the monitoring light signal received from the own optical transmission line by folding-back transmission to the opposite optical transmission line,

wherein variable optical attenuators are each provided between each optical coupler and the associated wavelength selective reflecting means, and the monitoring light signal folding-back lines are each provided on the input side of the optical amplifier on the own optical transmission line.

Claims 9-14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (New) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 8, wherein wavelength selective reflecting means is provided preceding to and subsequent to the variable optical attenuator.

Claim 16. (New) The optical amplifying and relaying system according to claim 8, wherein an optical isolator is provided as an intermediate stage in each monitoring light signal folding-back line, and each said wavelength selective reflecting means uses an optical fiber grating.